come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

What is claimed is:

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1.   In a networked system that includes a client and a server, a method for discovering particular information on the networked system, the method comprising:

initiating a request at the client to discover the particular information, wherein the request is made using at least one of:

5   (i)   a broadcast procedure; and

(ii)   a multicast procedure;

receiving a response to the request from a server after a random delay time; and

establishing a connection with the server.

10   2.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request is further made using a randomized exponential backoff strategy.

3.   A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the request identifies a particular part of a server where the particular information may be located.

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4.   A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the client is a television that is configured to provide programming content.

5.   A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the client is a television and the

20   server is a computer device.

6.   A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising a step for receiving a second response to the request from a second server after the random delay time.

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7.   A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the step for establishing a connection further comprises a step for determining not to connect to the second sever.

8.   A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step for determining not to

5   connect to the second server is based on at least one of:

(i)   whether the client has established a connection with another server; and

(ii)   a characteristic of the server which the client establishes a connection.

10   9.   A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the characteristic of the server is a version of the server.

10.   A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:

discovering a network disconnect;

15   initiating a second request at the client to discover the particular information, wherein the second request is made using at least one of:

(i)   a broadcast procedure; and

(iii)   a multicast procedure;

receiving a subsequent response to the second request from the server after a

20   random delay time; and

establishing a second connection with the server.

11.   A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the request is further made using a randomized exponential backoff strategy.

12.   A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the request uses a user datagram
5   protocol.

13.   A networked system comprising:

a server coupled to a network; and

a client coupled to the network, wherein the client is configured to selectively provide a request on the network to discover the server, wherein the client is configured to selectively

5   provide programming content to a viewer, and wherein the a request is made at least one of (i) a broadcast procedure and (ii) a multicast procedure.

14.   A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the request is further made using a randomized exponential backoff strategy.

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15.   A networked system as recited in claim 14, wherein the network is a home network.

16.   A networked system as recited in claim 14, wherein the request identifies a

15   particular part of the server where desirable information is located.

17.   A networked system as recited in claim 14, wherein the client is a television.

18.   A networked system as recited in claim 17, wherein the client is a TV and the

20   server is a computer device.

19.   A networked system as recited in claim 14, wherein the request uses a user datagram protocol.

20.   A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a method for discovering particular information on the networked system, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

initiating a request at the client to discover the particular information, wherein the request is made using at least one of:

(i)   a broadcast procedure; and

(ii)   a multicast procedure;

receiving a response to the request from a server after a random delay time; and

establishing a connection with the server.

21.   A computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the request is further made using a randomized exponential backoff strategy.

22.   A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the client is a television that is configured to provide programming content.

23.   A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the client is a television and the server is a computer device.

24.   A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing a step for receiving a second response to the request from a second server after the random delay time.

5   25.   A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for establishing a connection further comprises a step for determining not to establish a connection to the second sever.

26.   A computer program product as recited in claim 25, wherein the step for

10   determining not to establish a connection to the second server is based on at least one of:

(i)   whether the client has established a connection with another server; and

(ii)   a characteristic of the server with which the client establishes a connection.

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27.   A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the characteristic of the server is a version of the server.

28.   A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing:

discovering a network disconnect;

initiating a second request at the client to discover the particular information,

wherein the second request is made using at least one of:

(i)   a broadcast procedure; and

(ii)   a multicast procedure;

receiving a subsequent response to the second request from the server after a random delay time; and

establishing a second connection with the server.

29.   A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the request is further made using a randomized exponential backoff strategy.